

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the abstract on page 3, by deleting the title, and replacing page 3 with the following:

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL MESSAGE GATEWAY

ABSTRACT-OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system, method, and apparatus are provided to enable semi-intelligent switching-based communication between diverse message source types, the addition of new message source types to the switching framework with minimal start-up costs, and local content-based message switching to minimize traffic on the network. A switch and interface are provided that abstracts out the commonalities of interfacing with diverse message sources, provides the mechanics of switching messages between such sources and offers flexibility in the process of deciding the intended recipients.